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85-078089/13 K05 HITA 29.07.83 HITACHI KK K(5-84) \*J6 0031-090-A 29.07.83-JP-137713 (16.02.85) G21c-03/38 G21c-15/06 039 Fuel assembly for water reactor - having water rods-adjustable water flow C85-034133 Water rod (11) consists of an upper end plug (12), a cooling water passage (13) provided at the upper end plug (13), a screw with small passage (14), a screw hole (18), and a cooling water inlet Cooling water is heated while passing through a water rod (11). The void ratio becomes large when cooling water flow is small, and the void ratio becomes smaller as cooling water flow increases, and becomes zero when increased further. When the screw (14) is on, flow is low and thus the void ratio becomes large. When the screw is off, flow increases and the void ratio can be Steam void (16) can be filled up to the coolant inlet (15) by adjusting the dia. of the screw hole (18) to increase resistance of steam flow and balance steam pressure in the water rod and water head outside. ADVANTAGE - Neutron spectre shift in the water reactor is increased and burn up of fuel is increased, resulting in improved fuel economy. (cpp Dwg.No.4/8)

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## 19日本国特許庁(JP)

① 特許出願公開

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9発明の名称 燃料集合体

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# 先明の名称 燃料集合体

#### 特許請求の範囲

1. 1個又は複数個の水ロッドを有する軽水冷却 型原子炉用燃料果合体において、炉心内に装荷さ れた燃料集合体を取り出すことなく水ロッド内の 冷却水流量を調整可能とする流量調整部を設けた 水ロッドを有することを特徴とする松科集台体。 発明の詳細な説明

#### 〔発明の利用分野〕

本発明は、軽水冷却型原子炉燃料集合体に係り、 好に水ロッド内の冷却水流量を調整するととによ り、水ロッド内の液体対蒸気の比を燃料の燃焼前 期。後期において変化させることにより、燃料経 済性の向上に好適な燃料集合体に関する。

#### 〔発明の背景〕

沸騰水型原子炉を例にとると、沸騰水型原子炉 では、軸方向出力分布は、ポイド半(蒸気の占め る体徴比)が上部に行くほど高くなる為に、炉心 上部に比べ好心下部における中性子の熱化が進み

(ポイド率が低く、中性子がより多く破滅するた め)、出力ビークの位置が炉心下部に歪む。又炉 心候断国でみた場合、出力分布は、バイパス部の 滅速材のため、 松科果台体周辺部では、 熱中性子 密度が高くなり、このため出力ピークは、燃料果 台体の周辺部の燃料棒において生じる。

現在の伊心設計においては、燃料健全性の確保 及び、ブラント利用率向上の観点から、燃料果合 体内での、出力ピークをできるだけ低下させる設 計が得じられている。燃料集合体周辺部での出力 ピークを抑えるためには、中央部の出力を上げる ことが必要であり、このために燃料来合体中央部 に、燃料を入れないで、波速材のみ通すロッド、 即ち水ロッドを用いている。

しかしながら、近年の燃料の技術開発の結果パ リア燃料等のPCI(燃料-被獲實作用)対策が 開発されるに従い、今までのように、燃料巣合体 内での出力分布平担化は、特に必要がなくなり、 **緑出力密度に関しては、燃料の蜷全性が維持でき** る範囲内で上昇させることができる。とのような

好心では、新らたな好心放計が考えられる。

この1つにスペクトルシフト選転法が考えられている。これは、炉心内の為気ボイド率の割合を増加させれか、あるいは、冷却水の割合を減少なせることにより、減果材(軽水冷却型原子炉にかいては、触水が、冷却材、及び、減果材として利用される。)による中性子の減果後能を弱めることにより、中性子のエネルギースペクトルを、後せ、自エネルギーの中性子東の割合を増すす。その結果、高エネルギー中性子によるブルトニウムを成が増し、そのブルトニウムを燃やするとにより、燃料経済性向上で図ることができる。

加圧水型原子炉を例にとると、加圧水型原子炉では、制御御に、中性子高吸収材を含まなくて、 冷却水を排除することを目的とする水排除御を採

そとで、燃料集合体の炉内装荷期間の内、前半は、高いポイド率で燃焼させブルトニウムの生成の増大を促し、使半は、ポイド率を低下させるととにより生成されたブルトニウムによる反応度への寄与を利用し、原子炉の反応度を高め、燃焼度を増大させる運転法が考えられる。これがスペクトルシフト効果の運用である。

用している。加圧水炉では、との水掛線用制鋼棒を、 燃焼切削においては、炉心に挿入し、水対りラン比を減少し、スペクトルシフト効果によりブルトニウム生収益を高め、逆に、 燃焼袋半では、炉心より引き抜いて水対ウラン比を増加させ反応 度を高める連転法が考えられる。

#### 〔発明の財投〕

〔発明の目的〕

# 時 水型原子炉を例にとると、沸け水型原子炉では、原子炉運転中にポイドが発生し、そのため

ッドを燃料の燃焼初期においては、ポイド率を高くし、プルトニウム普頭を増大させ、逆に燃焼後期は、ポイド率をゼロとすることにより反応度を 高め、燃料の蒸焼度を増大させることが可能となる。

以上の効果は、加止水型原子炉においても、同様である。

#### 〔始明の失過例〕

本発明の実施例を以下に示す。

第1図に従来の燃料乗台体上部の断面図を示す。 第1図において、1、2は燃料炉、3は水ロッド、 5は上部タイプレートで、さらに1はレギュラー ロッド、2はタイロッドである。6は水ロッドの 冷却水出口である。

第2図に燃料集甘水の全体構成を示す。第2図において7は、水ロッド冷却水人口である。冷却水は、冷却水人口7より加入し、水ロッドチュープ中を通過し、冷却水出口6より加出する。

従来の水ロッドは、水ロッド内に、蒸気が発生 しないように、守却水山入口6,7の穴の大きさ

及び数を定めて 第3四に本光 外の部分につい る。第3回にお 12は、上部海 水旋路、14は ジ代、15は合 却水入口151 通り、ネジ穴1 ツド本体的11 生する。付母水 くなり、足に冷: てポイド軍は小・ イド半は、ゼロ 本発明におい る場合は、冷却: は大きくなる。: 流量が増し、水 なる。

第4卤に本药

クルよりネジを、 本体部に付助水 にさらに1,2 数の効果により: ジ14は、小は)

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第3図に本先明の水ロッド部の概念図を示す。外の部分については、第1図、第2図と同様である。第3図において、11は水ロッド本体部、12は、上部選栓、13は上部器栓に設けた冷却水放路、14は小放路付きネジ、18は、そのネッ穴、15は冷却水放人口である。冷却水は、水のか水入口15より成入し、水ロッド本体部11を通る間に、加熱されポイドを発生する。冷却水の成量が少ないとポイド率は、カリ、逆に冷却水の流量を増加させるに次ってポイド率は小さくなり、さらに増加させるとポイド率は、セロとなる。

本発明においては、第3凶より、ネジ14がある場合は、冷却水低量が少なく、よつてポイド省は大きくなる。逆にネジ14をはずすと、冷却水流量が増し、ポイド半をゼロにすることも可能となる。

第4図に本発明の水ロッドの上部増発に取り付(7)

クルよりネジを取りはずすことにより、水ロッド 本体形に脅却水を充調させ反応度を上けると同時 にさらに1、2サイクルにおけるプルトニウム智 独心効果により反応農増加を期体できる。なおネ ジ14は、小成路無しとしておくことも可能である。

また本発明の水ロッドは、加圧水型原子炉の燃料果合体に適用しても、上配と同様な最能を得る ことが可能である。

さらに、第7回に本先明の水ロッドの変形例を示す。前7回で、21は、発熱体である。本発明の変形例は、発熱体より、蒸気ポイドの発生を増大させるため、水ロッド内を蒸気ポイドで充満させる効果が増大する。

また、4.8 図に本発明の水ロッドの変形例を示す。4.8 図で、1.5 は下部端栓、1.6 は下部端栓に放けた冷却水流路、1.7 は小流路1.9 付きネジである。4.8 図では、下部にもネジ1.7 を取り付けることにより水ロッド内の低量制御に、より変化をつけることができる。

けたオジの穴18を、どく小口後にした場合の水ロッド内部の状態を示す。 第4 図で、16 は、 無気ポイド、17は、冷却水(液体)である。 ネジ穴18 の口性を調整し、 無気の低出抵抗を増すことにより、 水ロッド内 成気圧と 水ロッド外 部の水頭圧をパランスさせ、冷却材入口15 の位置まで 成気ポイド16を元満させることも可能である。

第5図に本発明の燃料を装付した炉心の例を示す。第5図で番号1の燃料は、装荷後のサイクル 経過が1サイクル未満の燃料集合体である。番号 2,3,4も同様である。番号1,2の燃料集合 体中の水ロンドには、第3図にかけるネジ14が 付いている。番号3,4の燃料集合体中の水ロン ドでは、ネジ14に取りにずしてある。

本希明の概料集台体は、第3凶、第5凶のように構成されているので、第6凶に示すような効果を有する。即ち、燃料集台体の反応度が大きい弟1、2サイクル目までは、ネジにより冷却水低を制限し、水ロッド本体形にポイドを多く発生させることにより、ブルトニウムを基積し、第3サイ

〔発明の効果〕

本発明によれば、下記の効果を有す。

- (1) 軽水炉における中性子スペクトルシフトを増大させ、燃料集合体の取り出し燃焼度を増加させ、燃料経済性を向上させることが、現在の燃料果合体中の水ロッドを一部改良するだけで可能となる。
- (2) 特別な充城材を用いて中性子は速効果をは遠させるのでないので、充填材の中性子吸収による経済性低下、及び、充場材使用による廃棄物の増加をまねくことがない。
- (3) 燃料集合体の上部に施量調整部を設けている ので炉心内に燃料を装荷したままで、容易に施 量調整作業が可能である。

#### 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は従来の燃料集合体の上部断面図、第2図は従来の燃料集合体の全体構成図、第3図は本発明ロッドの概念図、第4図は本発明ロッド内部の状態図、第5図は本発明の一天時例の燃料集合体を装断した炉心の構成図、第6図は本発明の効

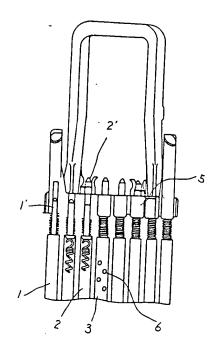
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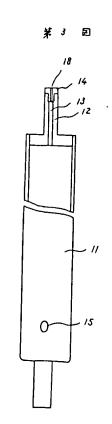
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果を示す最図、第7図は本発明の変形例を示す断面図、第8図は同じ(他の変形例の断面図である。 12…上部な観、13…冷却水低略、14…ネジ。 代理人 弁理士 高橋明夫

茅一/ 図



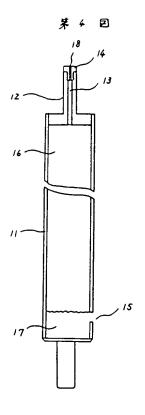
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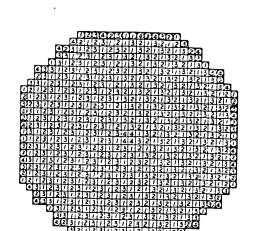


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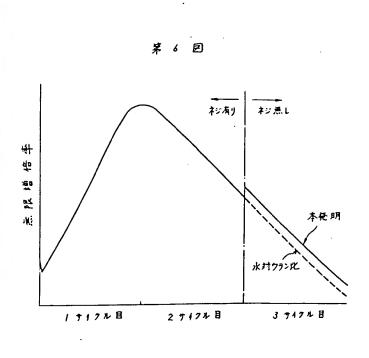
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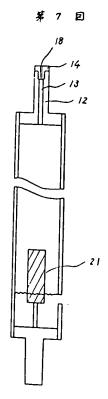
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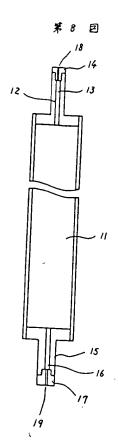


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**科周昭60-31090(6)** 



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PTO 99-2492

FUEL ASSEMBLY [Nenryo shuugoutai]

Shiro Nakamura, et al.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Washington, DC March 1999

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ENGLISH TITLE	(54):	FUEL ASSEMBLY
FOREIGN TITLE	[54A]:	NENRYO SHUUGOUTAI

Specifications

Title of the invention

FUEL ASSEMBLY

Claim

Claim 1. A fuel assembly for a light water-cooled nuclear reactor, having one, or a plurality of water rods, comprised of water rods having a flow rate adjusting portion which can adjust the cooling water flow rate within the water rods without the fuel assembly being removed from the reactor core.

Detailed Specifications

(Industrial field of utilization)

The present invention relates to a fuel assembly for a light water- cooled nuclear reactor, and more particularly to a fuel assembly which improves fuel economy by varying the ratio of liquid to vapor in the water rods between the early and later stages of fuel burning by adjusting the flow rate of the cooling water within the water rods.

(Prior art)

A boiling water reactor is used as the example. In the boiling water reactor, the axial output distribution is such that the neutron thermalization in the lower portion of the core is more advanced than the upper portion of the core because the void ratio (percentage of volume taken up by vapor) increases towards the upper section (because a low void ratio means that the neutrons are further decelerated). The position of the output peak is therefore skewed towards the lower portion of the core.

Consider the cross section of the core: the output distribution is such that the hot neutron density becomes high in the vicinity of the fuel assembly because of the moderator in the bypass portion. As a result, the output peak occurs at the fuel rods in the vicinity of the fuel assembly.

Current designs of reactor cores reduce the output peak in the fuel assembly as much as possible in order to ensure fuel rod integrity and improve the plant utilization factor. It is necessary to increase the output of the central portion in order to suppress the output peak in the vicinity of the fuel assembly. For this reason, rods, or water rods, through which only the moderator passes, are used in the central portion of the fuel assembly instead of fuel.

However, with the development of PCI (fuel-coated cylinder interaction) for barrier fuels and the like as a result of recent developments in fuel technology, the leveling of output distribution in the fuel assembly has become unnecessary and linear output density can be increased within a range wherein fuel integrity can be maintained. New designs are used for this type of reactor core.

One of these is the spectral shift operation. The percentage of vapor void in the core is increased or the percentage of cooling water is decreased, whereby the neutron moderation function is weakened by the moderator (light water is used as the coolant and the moderator in a light water-cooled reactor). The energy spectra of the neutrons are solidified (increasing the

percentage of high energy neutron quanta) and as a result, the absorption of high energy neutrons increases. This results in increased plutonium generation by the high energy neutrons, and fuel economy can be improved by burning that plutonium.

The means for changing the vapor void ratio and the percentage of cooling water include the method of varying the core flux or the method of inserting filler in the water rod or bypass region.

The example used here is a pressurized water reactor. In a pressurized water reactor, water elimination rods, with the object of eliminating the cooling water without including highly neutronabsorbent materials, are used in the control rods. This operation method is used in a pressurized water reactor as follows: these control rods for water elimination are inserted into the core in the initial stages of combustion, the water to uranium ratio is reduced and the amount of plutonium generated increases as a result of the spectra shift effect. Oppositely, the rods are removed from the core in the second half of the combustion process, the water to uranium ratio is increased, and the reactivity is increased.

### (Objective)

It is an object of the present invention to control the void ratio by controlling the flow rate within the water rods; being one type of fuel assembly constituent. In the first stage of fuel burning, the accumulation of plutonium is increased by increasing the void ratio; in the later stages of burning, the neutron moderation effects are increased by making the void ratio zero. The reactivity, as well as the abovementioned plutonium accumulation effects are increased and it thereby becomes possible to provide a fuel assembly which increases fuel burnability. (Operation)

A boiling water reactor is used as the example. In a boiling water reactor, voids occur during reactor operation and as a result, the moderation effects of the moderator decrease and neutron spectra are solidified. Accordingly, the fuel assemblies used in high void ratio operations have harder neutron spectra than the fuel assemblies used in low void ratio operations and increased absorption of high energy neutrons. Therefore, they result in increased plutonium accumulation. This accumulation is greater than during the combustion period at a high void ratio.

Therefore, during the first half of the period when fuel assemblies are loaded in the reactor, the fuel burns at a high void ratio and brings about a high generation of plutonium. During the second half, the void ratio is decreased, the resulting plutonium generated thereby contributes to reactivity, and the reactivity of the reactor and the burnability of the fuel are increased. This is the action of the spectra shift effect.

In the present invention, the concept of reverse operation using conventional water rods was considered as means to attain this spectra shift effect. Because of the flattened output distribution within the fuel assembly, conventional water rods are used with a void ratio of zero while installed in the reactor.

Recent developments in fuel technology have made the flattening unnecessary. In the initial fuel combustion stage, therefore, the water rods have a high void ratio and increase plutonium accumulation; oppositely, in the later combustion stages, the water rods increase reactivity and burnability of the fuel by reducing the void ratio to zero.

The abovementioned effects are the same for pressurized water reactors.

# (Working examples)

The working examples of the present invention are explained below.

Figure 1 shows a cross section of the upper portion of a conventional fuel assembly. In Figure 1, 1 and 2 are fuel rods, 3 is a water rod, 5 is an upper tie plate; 1 is a regular rod and 2 is a tie rod. 6 is the cooling water outlet for a water rod.

Figure 2 shows the constitution of a fuel assembly. In Figure 2, 7 is the cooling water inlet for the water rod. The cooling water flows from the cooling water inlet 7 through the water rod tube and out the cooling water outlet 6.

In the conventional water rod, the size and number of the holes for the cooling water inlets and outlets 6 and 7 are determined so that vapor is not generated within the water rod.

Figure 3 shows a schematic diagram of the water rod portion of the present invention. The external portions are the same as in Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 3, 11 is the water rod main body, 12 is

the upper end plug, 13 is the cooling water passage provided at the upper end plug, 14 is the screw with a small passage, 18 is the screw hole thereof, and 15 is the cooling water inlet. The cooling water flows in from the cooling water inlet 15, passes through the water rod main body 11, and flows out through the screw hole 18. While passing through the water rod 11, the cooling water is heated and generates voids. When the flow rate of the cooling water is low, the void ratio becomes high; oppositely, the void ratio decreases as the flow rate of the cooling water is increased and eventually becomes zero.

In the present invention, when the screw 14 is present as in Figure 3, the flow rate of the cooling water is low and the void ratio is thereby high. Oppositely, when the screw 14 is removed, the cooling water flow rate increases and the void ratio can become zero.

Figure 4 shows the situation of a water rod with a small screw hole 18 established in the upper end plug of the water rod relating to the present invention. In Figure 4, 16 is the vapor void, 17 is the cooling water (liquid). By adjusting the diameter of the screw hole 18 and increasing the resistance to vapor outflow, the vapor pressure within the water rod and water pressure outside the water rod can be balanced, making it possible for the vapor void 16 to fill the rod up to the location of the cooling material [sic] inlet 15.

Figure 5 shows an example of a core where the fuel relating to the present invention is installed. The no. 1 fuel in Figure 5

is a fuel assembly which has passed through less than one cycle since installation. The numbers 2, 3, and 4 are likewise. The screws 14, as in Figure 3, are present in the water rods in the nos. 1 and 2 fuel assemblies. The screws 14 are removed from the water rods in the nos. 3 and 4 fuel assemblies.

The fuel assemblies of the present invention are constituted as in Figures 3 and 5. Therefore, they have the effects as shown in Figure 6. In other words, the cooling water flow is controlled with the screws in the first and second cycles where the reactivity of the fuel assemblies is high. Many voids are generated in the water rod, resulting in the accumulation of plutonium. Removing the screws in the third cycle fills the water rod with cooling water and at the same time increases reactivity. Further increases in reactivity can be expected as a result of the effects of accumulating plutonium in the first and second cycles. Moreover, the screws 14 may also be made without the small passages.

The water rods relating to the present invention can also be used in fuel assemblies for pressurized water reactors and the same functions as above can be attained thereby.

Furthermore, Figure 7 shows a modification of the water rods relating to the present invention. In Figure 7, 21 is a heating element. This modification to the present invention can increase the vapor void filling the water rod, because the heating element increases vapor void generation.

Figure 8 shows a modification to the water rods relating to

the present invention. In Figure 8, 15 is a lower end plug, 16 is a cooling water passage installed in the lower end plug, and 17 is a screw with a small passage 19. In Figure 8, the control of the flow rate within the water rods can be further varied by mounting the screws 17 in the lower portion as well.

(Effects of the invention)

The present invention has the following effects.

- 1. The spectra shift of neutrons within light water reactors, retrievable burnability of fuel assemblies, and fuel economy can be increased by improving some of the water rods in current fuel assemblies.
- 2. Because neutron moderation effects are not achieved using special fillers, there are no problems such as decreased economy due to absorption of neutrons by the fillers and increases in waste materials due to the use of fillers.
- 3. Flow rate can be easily adjusted while fuel remains in the core because of the flow rate adjustment portion established on the upper part of the fuel assembly.

## Brief explanation of the figures

Figure 1 is a cross sectional view of the upper portion of a conventional fuel assembly; Figure 2 shows the constitution of an entire conventional fuel assembly; Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of a rod relating to the present invention; Figure 4 shows the internal situation of a rod relating to the present invention; Figure 5 shows the constitution of a core wherein fuel assemblies relating to one working example of the present invention are

installed; Figure 6 is a graph of the effects of the present invention; Figure 7 is a cross sectional view of a modification to the present invention; and Figure 8 is a cross sectional view of another modification thereto. 12...upper end plug, 13...cooling water passage in upper end plug, 14...screws.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

# Figure 6

[Key:]

A. Cycle 1, Cycle 2, Cycle 3; B. Infinite multiplication factor; C. With screw; D. Without screw; E. Present invention; F. Water to uranium ratio